

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW KANGAROO MOUSE FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.

In connection with a revision of the genus *Microdipodops* Mr. Donald R. Dickey has generously placed at my disposition his collection of specimens of these little known rodents. The new subspecies described below is named for Mr. Dickey in recognition of his important work on mammals.

Microdipodops megacephalus dickeyi, subsp. nov.

DICKEY'S KANGAROO MOUSE.

Type.—From 3 miles southeast of Oasis, Mono County, California (altitude about 5,150 feet). No. K1036, ♀ adult, collection of Donald R. Dickey, collected by Laurence M. Huey, August 19, 1922.

General characters.—A large, very pale form, most closely allied to *M. pallidus*, but still paler, with narrower mastoids and smaller teeth. Size and color about as in *M. m. lucidus*, but skull quite different.

Color.—*Type*: Face, top and sides of head and general dorsal area very light buff, finely and inconspicuously lined with black; under parts, lower part of flanks, forelimbs and hind feet pure white; postauricular white spots present as usual in the group; tail pale buffy above, white below.

Skull.—Very similar to that of *M. pallidus*; mastoids about as large as in *pallidus*, but narrower, less expanded laterally near auditory meatus, fully inflated posteriorly, the outer sides more nearly parallel, giving them a rather squarish appearance; teeth (incisors and molars) smaller; supraoccipital and interparietal narrowly compressed as in *pallidus*. Compared with the skull of *M. m. lucidus*, the mastoids and audital bullae are smaller, less inflated, the nasals are longer, and the teeth decidedly larger.

Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 170; tail vertebrae, 95; hind foot 25. *Skull* (type): Length (median line), 27.2; greatest width (between outer sides of audital bullae), 19.3; zygomatic breadth (immediately in front of audital bullae), 11.6; length of nasals, 10; interorbital breadth, 11.7; maxillary toothrow (alveolar length), 3.2; width of upper incisors (cutting edge), 1.3.

Remarks.—The kangaroo mouse here described is limited in known distribution to the basin-like valleys lying between the White Mountains in

California on the west and the Silver Peak Mountains in Nevada on the east. It is surprisingly unlike its near geographic neighbors *M. polionotus* and *M. m. lucidus* which inhabit valleys somewhat isolated by mountain ranges to the westward and eastward respectively. No other kangaroo mouse is known to range quite so far south.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 54, as follows:

California: Deep Spring Valley (middle), Inyo County, 7; Oasis (type locality), Mono County, 36.

Nevada: Dyer, 9; Palmetto Wash (mouth), Esmeralda County, 2.